

REMARK/ARGUMENTS

Initially, Applicants would like to express appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided, for the acknowledgment of Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement by return of the Form PTO-1449, for the acknowledgment of Applicants' Claim for Priority and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document, and for acknowledging the acceptability of the Drawings.

Upon entry of the above amendments, claims 1-17 will have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein, and claims 18-35 will have been added. Claims 18-35 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections, and allowance of all the claims pending in the present application.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite.

In setting forth the rejection, the Examiner asserts that the recitation of "the component" in claim 1 is unclear because several recitations of various components (e.g., "second component" and "valve component") have been set forth in the claim.

Additionally, the Examiner indicates that claims 16 and 17 have not been examined on the merits because a first closing component was not set forth in any of the preceding claims.

Applicants submit that the above-noted rejection of these claims are believed to be moot since claims 1-17 will have been canceled upon entry of the present

Amendment. Nevertheless, to the extent that newly-added claims 18-34 may recite at least some features somewhat similar to canceled claims 1-17, Applicants respectfully traverse the above-noted rejection.

In this regard, Applicants submit that the claims have been rewritten in order to more clearly recite the presently claimed invention.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by SLIGER (U.S. Patent No. 4,426,036); and

the Examiner rejected claims 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over SLIGER in view of DUPREZ (U.S. Patent No. 4,562,953).

Initially, Applicants submit that the above-noted rejection of these claims are believed to be moot since claims 1-15 have been canceled by the present Amendment.

Nevertheless, to the extent that newly-added claims 18-34 may recite at least some features somewhat similar to canceled claims 1-15, Applicants respectfully traverse the above-noted rejection.

In particular, claim 18 sets forth a fluid outlet chamber regulator including: a chamber component having an inlet and an outlet configured to regulate fluid, and the chamber component having at least one opening formed in an inner wall of the chamber component between the inlet and the outlet; a flow passage regulator which regulates a flow of the fluid passing through the chamber component in a longitudinal direction of the chamber regulator, the flow passage regulator having a valve movable in the longitudinal direction and configured to close a passage cross-section positioned between

the inlet and the outlet of the chamber component, the valve being fixed to a longitudinally extending control shaft; and a closure configured to translate with the control shaft, the closure having two flat surface supports which extend parallel to two corresponding flat inner wall surfaces provided on the inner wall of the chamber component, so as to define two sliding contact surfaces during the translation of the closure within the chamber component, the closure being positioned on the shaft and having a shape configured to regulate the fluid flow passing through the opening in accordance with a regulation of the fluid flow through the passage cross-section, wherein during translation, the closure is locked against rotation

In setting forth the rejection of claims 1-15, the Examiner asserts, inter alia, that SLIGER discloses the presently claimed second closing component (i.e., the flange portion 16 of element 15).

However, contrary to the Examiner's assertions, the device of SLIGER is very different structurally from the presently claimed invention.

More specifically, Applicants submit that SLIGER *merely* discloses the edge 16 of the valve 15 in engagement with the insert 35 in order to compress the insert 35 and prevent leakage (see, column 3, lines 51-64 of SLIGER).

Furthermore, none of the applied prior art discloses or contemplate the presently claimed closure being locked against rotation during translation.

Thus, Applicants submit that SLIGER does not disclose at least the presently claimed closure configured to translate with the control shaft, the closure having two flat surface supports which extend parallel to two corresponding flat inner wall surfaces provided on the inner wall of the chamber component, so as to define two sliding contact

surfaces during the translation of the closure within the chamber component, the closure being positioned on the shaft and having a shape configured to regulate the fluid flow passing through the opening in accordance with a regulation of the fluid flow through the passage cross-section, wherein during translation, the closure is locked against rotation, as recited in claim 18.

Additionally, Applicants submit that SLIGER discloses the contact between the edge 17 of the cup shaped body 15 and the insert 32/35 being a linear contact (see, e.g., Figure 3 of SLIGER), and not a surface contact area as claimed in the present invention.

Thus, Applicants submit that SLIGER does not disclose at least the presently claimed surface supports which extend parallel to two corresponding flat inner wall surfaces provided on the internal wall of the chamber component, so as to define two sliding contact surfaces during the translation of the closure within the chamber component, as recited in claim 18.

Further, Applicants submit that the cup-shaped body 15, which the Examiner considers to be equivalent to the presently claimed chamber component, is movable (see, e.g., Figure 1 and Figure 3, showing the closed and opened position in SLIGER respectively).

Thus, Applicants submit that SLIGER does not disclose at least the presently claimed chamber component being stationary, as recited in claim 35.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that newly-added claims 18-35 are patentable over the cited references.

In view of the herein-contained remarks, Applicants submit that independent claim 18 is in condition for allowance. With regard to dependent claims 19-35

Applicants assert that they are allowable on their own merit, as well as because of their respective dependencies from independent claim 18, which Applicants have shown to be allowable.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims in the present application are clearly patentable over the references cited by the Examiner, either alone or in combination, and an indication to such effect is respectfully requested, in due course.

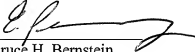
SUMMARY

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully request an indication to that effect. Applicant have demonstrated the allowability of the claims. Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action and allowance of the present application and all the claims therein are respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate.

Applicants note that this amendment is being made to advance prosecution of the application to allowance and should not be considered as surrendering equivalents of the territory between the claims prior to the present amendment and the amended claims. Further, no acquiescence as to the propriety of the Examiner's rejections is made by the present amendment. All other amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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